

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 INR-10 PM-05
SIG-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 H-01 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
TRSE-00 ACDA-12 MCT-01 HA-05 MCE-00 /104 R

DRAFTED BY AF/I:LTCOL WRCARROLL:PCS
APPROVED BY AF:WEDMONDSON
AF/E:JWHITING
INR:RELLIOT
AF/S:DKEOGH
PM:FCORRY (SUBS)
NEA:WGROSS

-----113441 150432Z /64

O P 150006Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065651

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, RH

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SUBJECT: RHODESIA: PRESIDENT KAUNDA DESCRIBES RHODESIAN
RAID

REF: (A) STATE 064490; (B) LUSAKA 827

1. THE USG HAS NEVER SUPPLIED NOR AGREED TO A THIRD
COUNTRY'S SUPPLYING EITHER THE CH-47 CHINOOK OR ITS VAGUE

LOOK-ALIKE, THE CH-46 SEA KNIGHT HELICOPTERS TO ISRAEL. AS INDICATED IN REFTTEL, VERY FEW COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE HAVE EITHER HELICOPTER IN THEIR INVENTORIES AND ONLY ONE OTHER COUNTRY MANUFACTURES THE CH-47 UNDER BOEING VERTOL LICENSE. IN SHORT, WE HAVE NO INFORMATION WHATEVER TO SUGGEST THAT ISRAEL HAS ACQUIRED EITHER OF THESE DISTINCTIVE ROTOR HELICOPTERS. ISRAEL'S HEAVY VERTICAL LIFT REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN FILLED WITH EITHER THE US CH-53 OR THE FRENCH SA-321 HELICOPTERS. THE CH-53 NOT THE CH-47 WAS WIDELY EMPLOYED BY ISRAELI IN THE 1973 WAR. THE CH-53'S PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS ARE COMPARABLE WITH THE CH-47; HOWEVER THE CH-53 IS A CONVENTIONALLY DESIGNED HELO WITH ONE LARGE MAIN ROTOR SYSTEM AND A MUCH SMALLER TAIL ROTOR SYSTEM WHEREAS THE CH-47 HAS BASICALLY TWO IDENTICAL MAIN ROTOR SYSTEMS INSTALLED IN TANDEM.

2. EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO SHARE ABOVE INFORMATION WITH THE GRZ AT APPROPRIATE LEVELS. ADDITIONALLY, DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS EMBASSY OFFER ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFYING THE HELICOPTER IN QUESTION, OUT OF CONCERN THAT WE NOT SEEM TO BE CONCEALING ORIGINS OF THE AIRCRAFT. YOU COULD EITHER SUGGEST THAT YOU BE PERMITTED TO OSERVE AND PHOTOGRAPH THE AIRCRAFT, OR THAT THE GRZ DO SO, ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BELOW, AND OFFER OUR PROMPT ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFYING IT. CONFIDENTIAL

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3. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION: PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE OVERALL WRECKAGE OR OF MAJOR COMPONENTS WOULD BE CONCLUSIVE IN IDENTIFYING THE TYPE OF HELICOPTER INVOLVED. THE ORIGIN OF THE AIRCRAFT COULD BE TRACED THROUGH SERIAL NUMBERS, EITHER OF THE AIRCRAFT ITSELF OR OF MAJOR COMPONENTS. THE AIRCRAFTS MANUFACTURER'S NAME PLATE CONTAINING THE SERIAL NUMBER, SOMETIMES CALLED BUREAU NUMBER, OF THE INDIVIDUAL AIRCRAFT WILL BE LOCATED IN THE PILOTS COCKPIT AREA EITHER ON THE INSTRUMENT PANEL OR THE BULKHEAD. THE MAJOR COMPONENTS THAT COULD ASSIST IN DETERMINING THE TYPE OR ORIGIN OF THE AIRCRAFT ARE THE ENGINES, MAIN TRANSMISSION, ROTO HEADS AND ROTOR BLADES. THESE COMPONENTS SHOULD HAVE A MANUFACTURER'S NAME PLATE AND SERIAL NUMBER TOO. IDEALLY, A PICTURE OF THE COMPONENT SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE NAME PLATE/SERIAL NUMBER WOULD AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF CONFUSING THE SERIAL NUMBERS OF SUB-ASSEMBLIES WITH THOSE OF THE MAJOR COMPONENTS.

4. ISRAEL AIRCRAFT INDUSTRIES (IAI) MANUFACTURES THE KFIR, A MODERN JET FIGHTER; THE ARAVA, A LIGHT TWIN-ENGINE FIXED-WING TRANSPORT THAT HAS BEEN SOLD IN LATIN AMERICAN;

AND THE WESTWIND, A TWIN-ENGINE EXECUTIVE JET. TO DATE IAI HAS NOT MANUFACTURED HELICOPTERS BUT HAS PERFORMED OVERHAUL AND DEPOT LEVEL MAINTENANCE ON THE HELICOPTERS THAT ISRAEL HAS OBTAINED FROM OTHER NATIONS.

5. FYI: ISRAEL HAS NOT SEVERED ITS MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTH AFRICA. AS A RESULT OF A CONTRACT NEGOTIATED PRIOR TO THE UN ARMS EMBARGO ISRAEL HAS DELIVERED RESHEF PATROL BOATS TO SOUTH AFRICA SINCE THE EMBARGO AND MORE OF THE RESHEFS ARE BEING CONSTRUCTED IN SOUTH AFRICA UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF ISRAELIS. ISRAELI UZI 9 MM AUTOMATIC WEAPONS MAY HAVE BEEN SOLD TO RHODESIA BY EITHER ISRAEL OR THROUGH A BELGIAN MANUFACTURER LICENSED BY ISRAEL ABOUT 10 TO 15 YEARS AGO. CONFIDENTIAL

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ADDITIONALLY, ON ONE OCCASION ISRAELI OBSERVERS WERE REPORTEDLY SENT TO SOUTH AFRICA TO OBSERVE MILITARY OPERATIONS IN NAMIBIA. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, GRZ MIGHT SEIZE ON "ISRAELI PARTICIPATION" IN FEIRA ATTACK NOT ONLY

TO EXPLAIN IN PART RHODESIAN MILITARY SUCCESS, BUT ALSO TO CASTIGATE ISRAELIS FOR COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA. VANCE

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